

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 10-15 are pending in this application. By this Reply, claims 1 and 15 are amended and formal drawings are provided for Figures 6 and 9-10 (two sheets). Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of the amended claims is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution without incorporating additional subject matter); (3) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; and/or (4) place the application in better form for appeal (if necessary). Entry is thus requested.

Applicant sincerely acknowledges the Office Action's indication that claims 1-6 and 10-14 defines patentable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

A. The Office Action objects to claim 1 for informalities. Applicant respectfully submits the above amendments obviate the grounds for the objection. Withdrawal of the objection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

B. The Office Action rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,273,569 B1 to Iechika et al. (hereinafter Iechika). The Office Action further rejects claim 15

under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,445,500 B1 to Itoh. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that similar subject matter to that indicated to be allowable in claim 1 is incorporated into claim 15. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits claim 15 defines patentable subject matter.

Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Iechika and Itoh fail to disclose every claim feature that is required under §102. For example, Iechika fails to disclose at least a feature of a rod lens and a polarization beam split array including polarization split planes respectfully provided at the focusing points, wherein the polarization split planes are slanted in opposite directions and meet at a center in symmetry in up/down directions to form a triangle with an optical output plane and combinations thereof as recited in claim 15. In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits Iechika does not teach or suggest a rod lens. In addition, Iechika discloses a separated polarization beam split plane and polarization conversion optical system 60 uses parallel beams. Further, Applicant respectfully submits that Iechika does not teach or suggest any modification to its disclosure that would result in at least the features of a rod lens and polarization beam split array and combinations thereof as recited in claim 15.

Applicant respectfully submits Itoh discloses a polarization beam splitter that uses parallel beams of light from a light source and discloses a polarization beam split plane lacking symmetry in an up/down direction. Further, Applicant respectfully submits Itoh does not teach or suggest

any modification to its disclosure that would result in at least features of a rod lens and polarization beam split array and combinations thereof as recited in claim 15.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits claim 15 defines patentable subject matter. Withdrawal of the rejections to claim 15 under §102 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **Carl R. Wesolowski**, at the telephone number listed below.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
FLESHNER & KIM, LLP



Daniel Y.J. Kim
Registration No. 36,186
Carl R. Wesolowski
Registration No. 40,372

P.O. Box 221200
Chantilly, VA 20153-1200
703 502-9440 DYK/CRW/par
Date: July 14, 2003

Enc: Letter Submitting Formal Drawings